Development of fisheries in Bihar

1489. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State of Bihar has potential for the development of fisheries in the State;

(b) whether Government have conducted survey in Bihar for developing fisheries there;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof;

(d) whether Government have earmarked funds for this purpose for the State of Bihar;

(e) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(f) the manner in which Government propose to tap the fisheries potential of Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) Government have arranged to carry out a few studies and survey on the inland fishery potential in the country including Bihar. According to these studies inland fishery potential of Bihar is as follows:

(i) Rivers and Canals—3200 kms.

(ii) Reservoirs—0.75 lakh ha.

(iii) Tanks & Ponds—0.95 lakh ha.

(iv) Oxbow Lakes (Beels) and Derelict Water Bodies—0.40 lakh ha.

(f) For development of fishery in the State of Bihar 39, Fish Farmers Development Agencies, 3 Fish Seed Farm and 2 Sewage Fed Fish Farms have been sanctioned by Govt. of India under Centrally Sponsored Schemes. Besides this there is a proposal to take up development of Oxbow Lakes in Bihar from 1992-93 onwards with World Bank assistance.

Loss due to floods

1490. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that huge losses are being incurred by the country every year due to floods; and

(b) if so, what plans Government have formulated to control the floods and save the country from recurring losses?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of India set up Ganga Flood Control Commission (GFCC) in April, 1972 for formulating comprehensive plans of flood control for rivers of the Ganga Basin. The GFCC has completed comprehensive plans for 23 sub-basins.

For tackling the problem of flood in Brahmaputra and Barak Valleys the Government of India constituted the Brahmaputra Board in December, 1981 charging it with the responsibility of Survey, investigation and preparation of Master Plans for control of floods in Brahmaputra and Barak Valleys and for taking up projects with the approval of the Government of India. The Board has a programme of preparing master plans separately for Main Brahmaputra. Main Barak and 38 tributaries of Brahmaputra and 10 rivers of Tripura. Two parts of Master Plan (for main Brahmaputra and Main Barak have been finalised.

The Government of India constituted two Committees in November, 1987, one for the North Eastern States and the other for the States of Bihar, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources to consider the problem of floods and flood management measures required in the States, to review flood protection measures taken and suggest remedial measures as necessary. On receipt of this report, the Empowered Committee was set up to facilitate

expeditious and time bound action on the recommendations of the two Committees. Follow up action required on the recommendations of the Empowered Committee has been circulated in January, 1991 to all the concerned Central/State Agencies.

Also, in other flood prone States/Union Territories such as Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Punjab, Rajasthan and Delhi, Master plan for Flood Management have been prepared. The Flood Control works are required to be executed by the States as per the inter se priority fixed by them in the outline plans so prepared.

Prime Minister's visit to drought affected areas in Andhra Pradesh

1491. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Prime Minister visited Anantapur in Andhra Pradesh to study drought conditions;

(b) if so, what are the details of relief extended to that state on that count; and

(c) whether Government are considering a plan to control recurring drought conditions in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Various Scheme for afforestation, Soil Conservation and increasing of irrigated areas etc. are already being implemented to contain the recurrence of drought.

Study of Soil

1492. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken or propose to take any steps for the study of the nature of the soil so as to help farmers cultivate crops suitable for a particular type of soil and thus improve the yield; and

(b) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The State Agricultural Universities have generated improved techniques of crop production suited to the variable properties of different soils in the country. The National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning under I.C.A.R. is the Central Organisation for characterising the soil resources in the country for efficient land use planning. Soil maps of the States of Punjab, Haryana, West Bengal, Manipur, Meghalaya and Pondicherry have been prepared in 1:250000 scale. This Institute has also brought out a publication delineating the agro-ecological zones of the country.

Subsidised fertilizer for small and Marginal farmers

1493. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the procedure for purchasing fertilizer at subsidised price by small and marginal farmers; and

(b) what is the amount earmarked for each State in this regard and the amount spent so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Guidelines have been issued on the 14th and 21st August, 1991 to the States/UTs by the Government of India, under which flexibility is available to the States/UTs to draw up their detailed procedures which would vary for different States/UTs.

(b) The amount earmarked for earch State/Union Territory during 1991-92, and the amount released as first instalment to them is given in the statement.